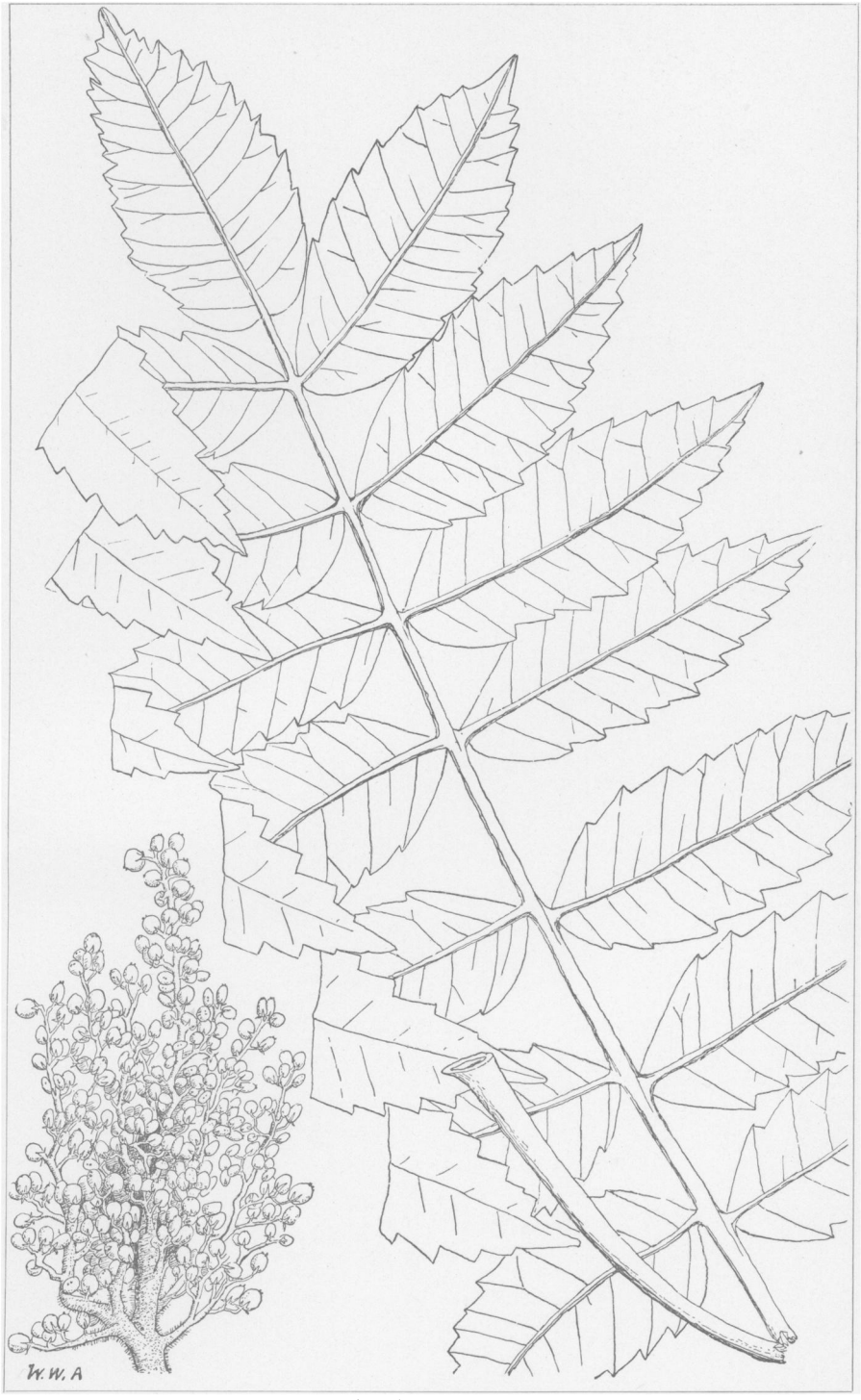
Naturally it would not occur to them as it would to a mycologist that, in this case, the spots represented a case of mimicry carried, one would suppose, to the highest degree of perfection; for, not only is the whole insect remarkably like a leaf, but, to complete the deception, it is spotted with parasites irregularly distributed precisely like those on real leaves. In the specimens I saw it required no exercise of the imagination to interpret the meaning of the spots, but any person accustomed to examine tropical foliicolous parasites would have been struck immediately with the resemblance.—W. G. FARLOW, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Notes on the sumacs.—Rhus Caroliniana, sp. nov. Low but erect, ten to eighteen inches high, with somewhat glaucous branches: petioles terete and smooth; leaflets thirteen to seventeen, oval to oblong-lanceolate, coarsely and irregularly serrate, green above, pale beneath but not glaucous, two to three inches long: flowers polygamous in a close terminal thyrsoid panicle which is broadly ovate in outline, four to six inches long, the lower branches soft villous, otherwise smooth: drupe discoid, clothed with short red hairs, with a smooth stone.—Flowers in the latter part of May and the acid berries ripen in September.—*Plate XXXVII.*

This species was found in the early part of the present summer in middle North Carolina, growing in old fields and low woods. It seems to be decidedly rare and local and in this state has a very limited distribution. It is most closely allied to *R. glabra*, from which it is at once distinguished by the larger leaflets, fewer in number, and the absence of the glaucous-like whitening beneath. The panicle is broad and spreading while that of *R. glabra* is more narrow. *R. Caroliniana* occurs with *R. glabra* and *R. copallina* but attains only a low growth.

It may be of interest to know that *Rhus pumila* Michx. was collected during the past summer in western North Carolina. Chapman's Flora of the Southern States gives the habitat of this species as "pine-barrens, from North Carolina to Georgia." I can find no record, however, of its having been collected in this section and, as I have failed to find it there after a careful examination, have concluded it was an error. The description as given by Dr. Chapman is very good, though the lower limit of the number of leaflets is probably nine instead of eleven. Pursh in his Flora of North America, correctly gives the plant as occurring in "upper Carolina." It was from this section that John Lyon collected the plants which grew in his garden and from which Pursh made his description. This description is similar to that in Chapman's Flora except that the number of the leaflets is not defin-



ASHE on RHUS.

itely limited, merely stated to be "foliis pinnatis multijugis." Lyon avers that he was severely poisoned by handling the plant but it must have been by another plant or he was hypersensitive to rhus poisons. Negro children where *R. pumila* grows eat its berries with the same avidity as those of *R. glabra* or *R. copallina* and experience no symptoms of poisoning.—WILLIAM WILLARD ASHE, *North Carolina Geological Survey.*

Note on Aster. — In the region round about Oberlin, Ohio, the descriptions of *Aster corymbosus* and *Aster macrophyllus*, as given by Dr. Gray, do not hold. They run into each other so decidedly as to make the separation of the two into species of no account. Specimens gathered here in abundance show all grades of combinations between the two, making no end of hybrids.

For instance, the distinction of "leaves thin," and "leaves thickish and rough" does not hold at all. We have specimens with the leaves thin and smooth which can be placed only as macrophyllus. Nor will the differences as to serration hold at all. And this is true of specimens from other regions than northern Ohio. Taper-pointed and abruptly pointed would seem to be good distinctions, but will not hold good. Moreover the times of blooming are such that the two can be seen together side by side, part fulfilling the descriptions of corymbosus and part answering to macrophyllus. No wonder Dr. Gray's diaries show that he was nearly distracted with his Asters.—F. D. KELSEY, *Oberlin, Ohio.*